(b) whether Government have received any demand from the oil crushing units, for the import of oilseeds from foreign country in view of its low production in India and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, import of oilseeds is proposed to be allowed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The oil crushing units particularly Solvent Extracters Association and Soybean Oil Processors Association have been writing to the Government about the under utilisation of the installed processing capacity of their units by 35-40%. The installed processing capacity was created by the units at their own much inexcess of the availability of raw material in the country without taking into consideration the production aspect of oilseeds used in solvent extraction i.e. soybean, sunflower and meals of other oilseeds. The major oilseeds like groundnut, rapeseed-mustard and seasmum are reserved for processing in the small scale sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Although the oilseeds production in the country has been of the order of 24.96 million tonnes during 1996-97 which is all time high record production achieved so far and 23.70 million tonnes in 1997-98, even then the proposal has been received by the Government for import of oilseeds, particularly soybean but it has been found that import of soybean could be allowed only in split form due to the danger of import of dangerous pathogens alongwith the seed. It was, therefore, decided that the association of industry would create splitting facilities at the port of entry i.e. at Kandla Port, before the import of soybean takes place. The Association has been conveyed the decision, who has yet to take necessary action to create the splitting facility at the port of entry.

Nuclear Waste From Water Reactors

3263. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of annual nuclear waste from the nuclear reactors in the country;

(b) what is existing arrangement to handle the nuclear waste to check atmospheric pollution;

(c) whether any recent review of the existing system has been made to judge its adequacy or otherwise in checking the radiation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what measures are contemplated by Government to store the nuclear waste more effectively to avoid its dangerous fall out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The extent of annual nuclear waste from the nuclear reactors in the country varies depending upon the total operating period of all the plants in a particular year.

(b) The existing arrangement to handle the nuclear waste includes several

Production of Quality Seeds by BARC

3264. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed expertise in producing quality seeds to boost agriculture especially in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details of the type of seeds developed and the parts of the country where these can be used for boosting agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has produced a number of

useful mutant varieties in crop plants, of which the yellow mustard mutant TM-4 was found very successful in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and in eastern parts of the country.

(b) The mutant varieties developed by BARC using radiation technique include nine varieties in pulses, eight in groundnut, two in mustard and one each in rice and jute. These varieties have been recommended for cultivation in different regions of the country by the Central Varietal Release Committee.

Indo-Russian Agreement on Nuclear Power Reactors

3265. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have signed an agreement under which Russia will sell two nuclear power reactors to be set up in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the broad terms of the agreement; and

(c) the specific benefits flowing to the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) India and Russia have signed a supplement to the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988 on 21.6.98 for implementation of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu. As per the IGA of 1988, the earstwhile USSR was to supply 2 Units of 1000 MWe each Light Water Rectors on a turnkey basis. Now the project is to be taken up on the basis of technical co-operation between India and the Russian Federation. The Russian Government will provide the entire plant design and be responsible for supply of major equipment, implementation of the project, commissioning and guarantee of operational performance. The IGA read with the supplement also provides for financial assistance and its repayment over a period of time.

(c) While India would benefit by getting two Light Water Reactors of 1000 MWe each partly financed by a soft loan in US dollars, the Russians would find a market in this field.

Regulation of Nuclear Energy Activities

3266. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) regulates the safety of nuclear energy activities in the country;

(b) whether the Board regulates the activities of civilian nuclear installations only; and

(c) the agency if any, to regulate the safety of defence nuclear installations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board carries out regulatory and safety functions envisaged under the Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. Section 16 deals with the control of radioactive substances, Section 17 is related to special provisions to safety and Section 23 pertains to the administration of Factories Act 1948.

The powers and functions of AERB are derived from the order constituting AERB (S.O. 4772, Gazette of India Part II SEC 3 (i) dated December 31, 1983). AERB carries out the regulation of the activities referred to in S.O. 4772, which covers the regulatory and safety functions envisaged under Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Atomic Energy Act.